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REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 24 and 25 have been allowed. Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutz (US Patent 6,136,714) or Jeng (US Patent 5,960,317) in view of Avanzino et al. (US Patent 6,140,239). It is Applicant's understanding that the cited references fail to individually or collectively teach or render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 31 for the reasons set forth in previous responses. Applicant, however, has canceled claim 31 in order to obtain issuance of allowed claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 24 and 25. Applicant, however, reserves the right to seek patentability of claim 31 in a continuing application. Because rejected claim 31 has been canceled, and because the remaining claims have been allowed, the present application is now in a condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date:

2/3/03

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